



## ROBB KAHL

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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Contact: Robb Kahl  
608-266-8570

### **Rep. Kahl Condemns Assembly Bills Targeting Democracy**

As you read this, the Wisconsin State Assembly will have already cast votes on three pieces of legislation that will essentially legalize political corruption in Wisconsin.

Republicans are ramming dangerous proposals through the state legislature at breakneck speed, starting with a bill that rewrites an entire chapter of Wisconsin's campaign finance laws. Introduced just a week ago, this bill will give corporations and billionaires even more influence over our elections.

Under the bill, corporations and special interest groups will be allowed to give unlimited amounts of money to political parties and campaign committees. The change will represent the first time in Wisconsin's history that corporations can give directly to those groups, setting up a dangerous scenario where a legal form of money laundering and pay-to-play politics becomes the norm.

Allowing millions of corporate dollars in our elections will drown out the voices of people of our state. As Matt Rothschild from the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign said in a press conference earlier this week, these bills will turn average citizens into "blindfolded spectators" in the political process.

Incredibly, the bill also eliminates most disclosure requirements to keep this spending by corporations and millionaires out of public view. Simultaneously, they eliminate the watchdog agency the Government Accountability Board (GAB) and exclude using John Doe investigations to uncover political corruption, effectively shielding themselves from the law.

Instead of working to improve economic security for hardworking people, Republicans are dead set on consolidating their own power and making it easier for corruption and cronyism to go undetected. Let's not forget that these are the same Republican legislators who, this summer, attempted to gut our open records laws to conduct business behind closed doors and destroy our strong tradition of transparent government.

Republicans are deliberately pushing through these bills at breakneck speed to not allow time for legislators, members of the media, and the public to fully comprehend and debate the devastating ramifications of these changes.

Hardworking taxpayers want us to address our crumbling roads, suffering middle class, and struggling schools. No one is asking for less government oversight and even more corporate influence in politics. These bills take us in the wrong direction.

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